




Getting Started Trapping!

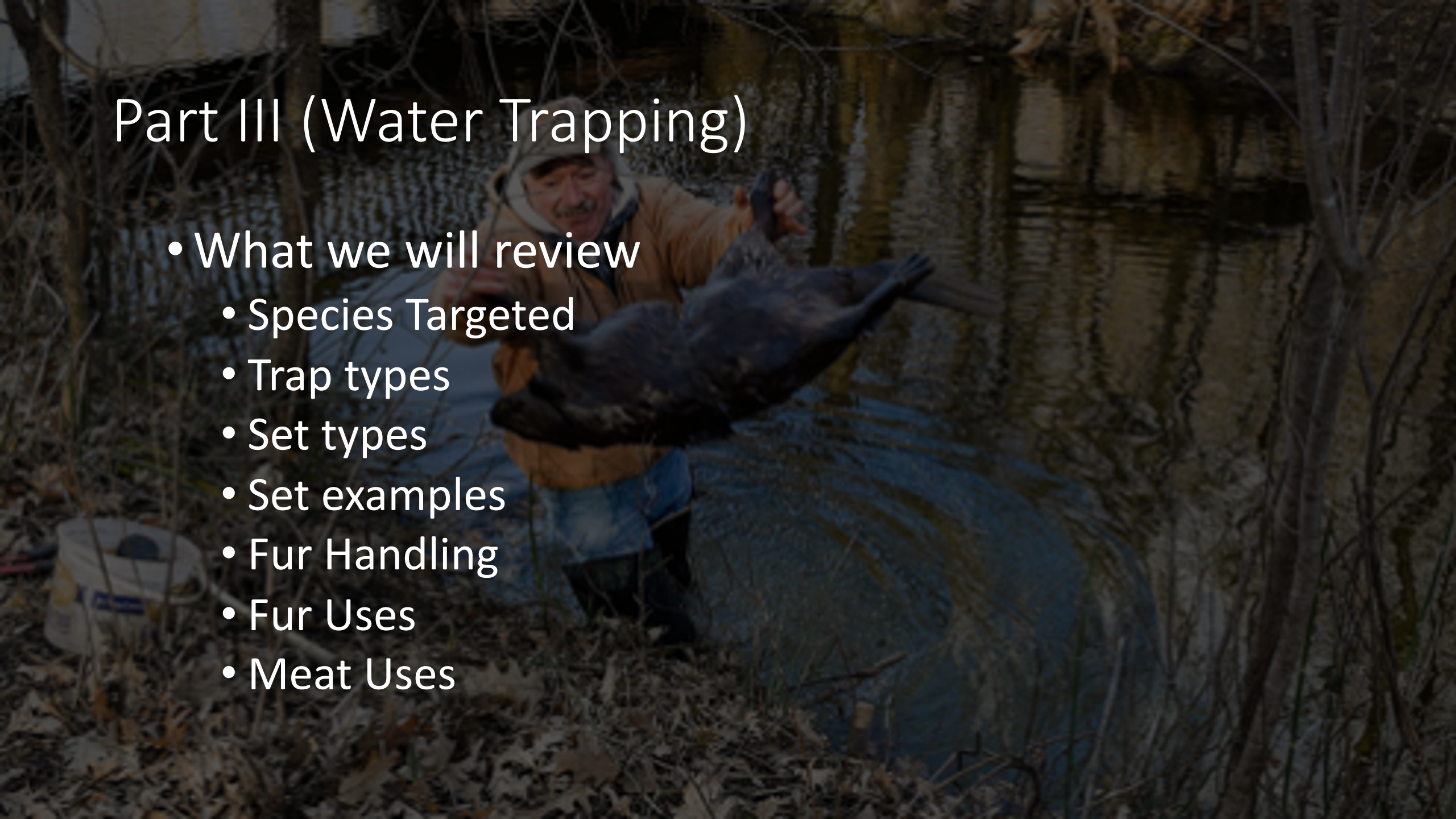
**AFI Lunch and Learn
event**

A photograph of two beavers on a log, with a text overlay. The beaver on the left is facing right, and the beaver on the right is facing left. They are both gnawing on the log. The background is a dark, out-of-focus forest. The text is white and centered over the beavers.

Special Thank you to the Wisconsin
Trappers Education Committee and
the Wisconsin Conservation
Congress Committee on Education

Part III (Water Trapping)

- What we will review
 - Species Targeted
 - Trap types
 - Set types
 - Set examples
 - Fur Handling
 - Fur Uses
 - Meat Uses



Legal Disclaimer

Always follow your local wildlife agency's regulations or ask the local warden or wildlife officer if you are not sure

This is a general overview and does not certify you as a trapper in any state

Types of traps

- Conibear
- Foothold
- Snare
- Cage Traps



Conibear

Bodygrip traps are useful and efficient. They generally are used in submersion sets for mink, muskrat, and beaver.

- Bodygrip traps come in many sizes. Some of the most commonly used are:
 - #110 for muskrat, weasel, and mink
 - #120 for muskrat, raccoon, mink, skunk, American marten, and opossum
 - #220 for nutria, beaver, raccoon, skunk, American marten, fisher, northern river otter, and opossum
 - #330 for beaver and northern river otter
- Some states and provinces limit jaw spread on bodygrip traps. Before setting traps, check local regulations to avoid acting unlawfully.
 - For dry land sets, 4½" is the usual jaw spread limit.
 - For submersion sets, jaw spread greater than seven inches is illegal in most areas, except during beaver season.
 - During beaver season, some areas require traps with a jaw spread greater than seven inches to be submerged completely.
 - See Setting and Releasing Traps for instructions on how to measure the jaw spread.





Conibear Pictures

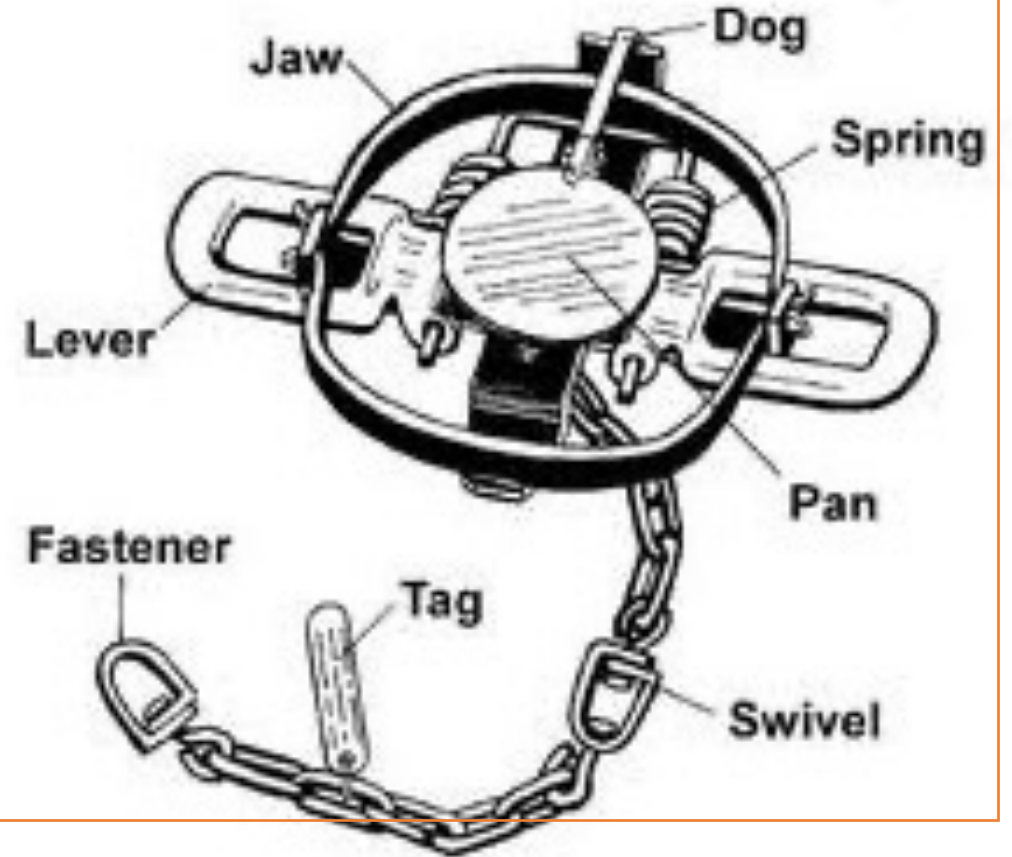
Dog in a Conibear Trap!

- How to avoid this
 - BMP
 - Courtesy for your fellow sportsmen
- How to get a dog out
 - Turn Trap
 - Use knee to compress spring
 - Use a leash
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1jBgwOdW4c>.

Foothold types

- Long Spring
- Coil Spring
- Enclosed Trigger (Dog Proof)
- Terminology
 - Swivel
 - Spring
 - Chain
 - Jaw (working and safe jaw)
 - Pan
 - Dog

Parts of the Foothold Trap



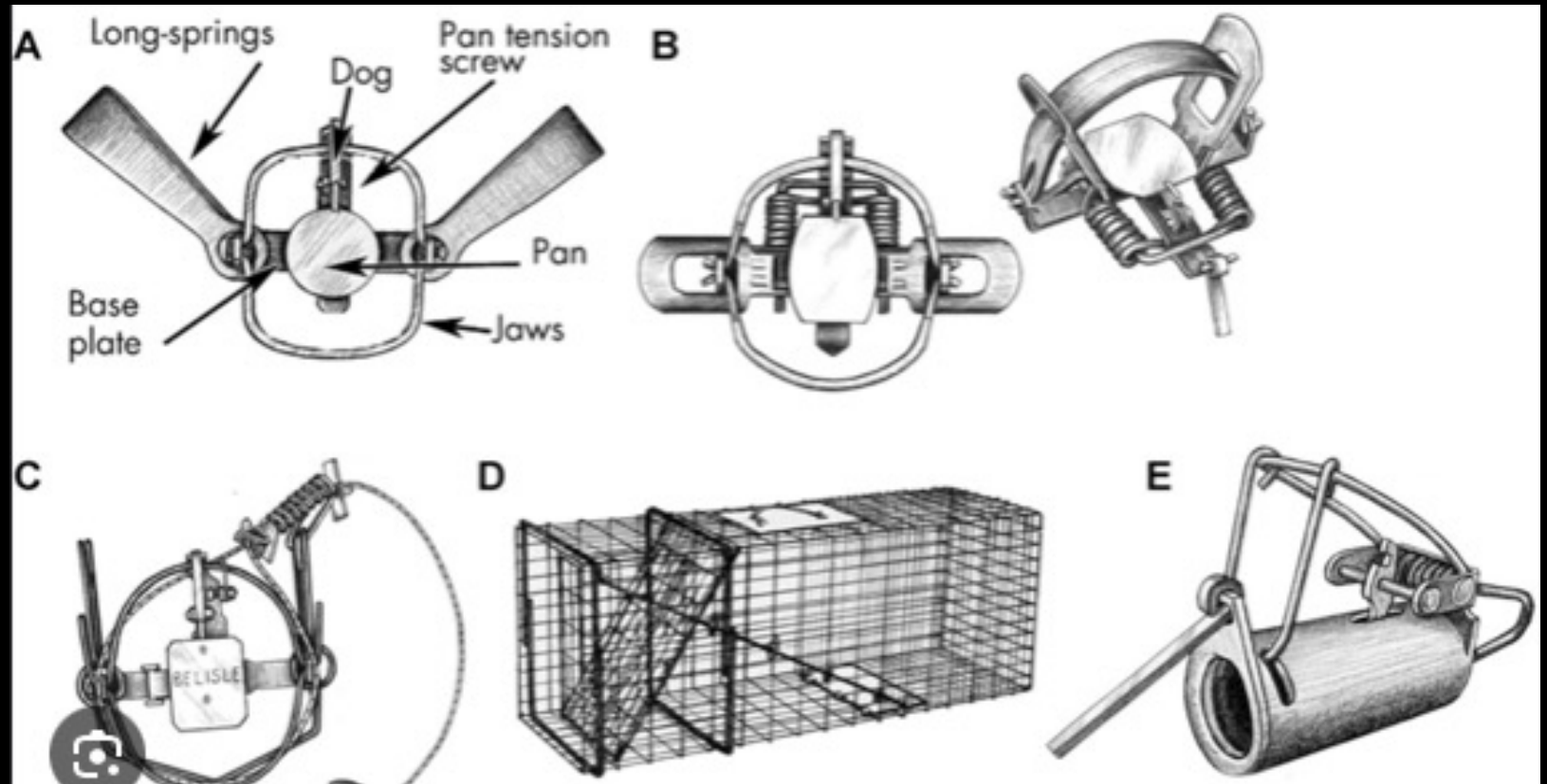
Footholds

• Jaw Type

- Off set
- Standard
- Rubber
- Laminated

• Sizes of Foothold Traps

- #1 for muskrat, nutria, mink, skunk, and weasel
- #1½ for nutria, raccoon, mink, American marten, fisher, opossum, and fox
- #2 for fisher, northern river otter, and fox (although #1½ is recommended for all fox trapping)
- #3 and #4 for beaver, coyote, and bobcat
- #11 for muskrat, nutria, raccoon, mink, skunk, opossum, and fox
 - In submersion sets, #1½ traps are recommended when seeking strong, active furbearers such as raccoon and mink



Foothold Pictures



Cage Traps

- Cage traps also may be known as box traps. They are made of wire mesh, come in different lengths, and have doors that vary in size.
- Several different kinds are popular for trapping muskrats.
- Trap size varies with a muskrat-sized opening on each end.
- The trap is placed underwater in a runway. The muskrat swims through the one-way swinging trap door. Mink sometimes swim into these traps as well.
- Several muskrats can be captured at one time.
- Trapped animals cannot escape through the one-way door. The animal soon suffocates.
- Box traps also may be used on land as live-restraining devices.
- Raccoons, skunks, opossums, and weasels can be caught in box traps. Foxes and coyotes may avoid box traps.
- Their large size can make these traps difficult to use. However, cage traps may be a good choice if you need to trap near buildings or in areas where pets may wander.

Cage Trap on land
for live catch



Cage trap
underwater
for
submersion
trap





Colony trap

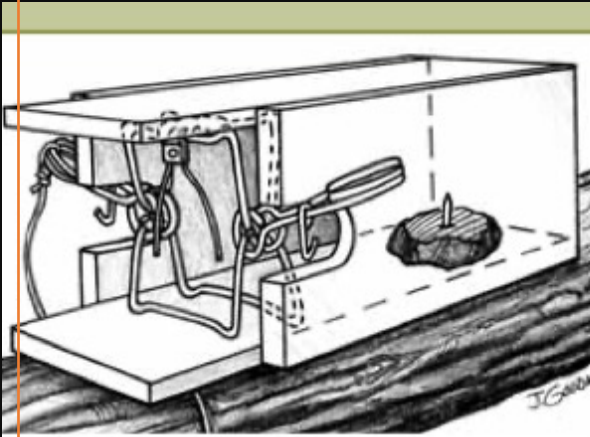
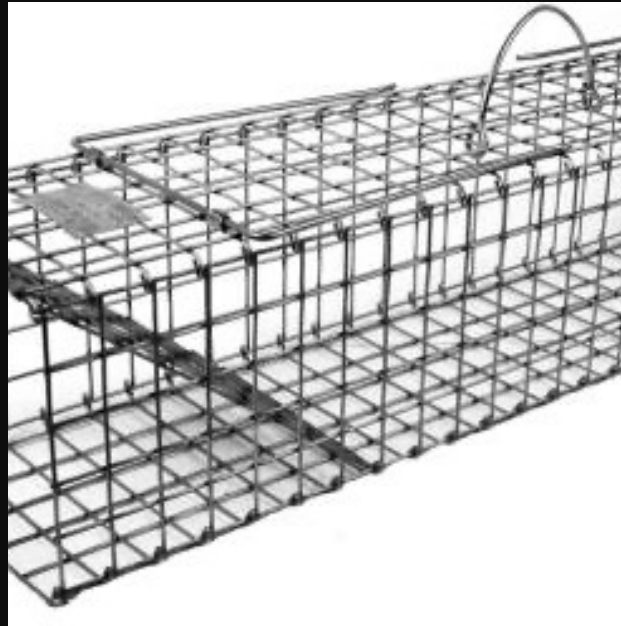
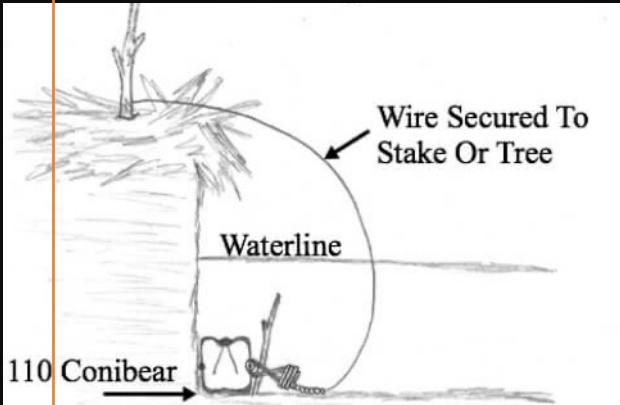


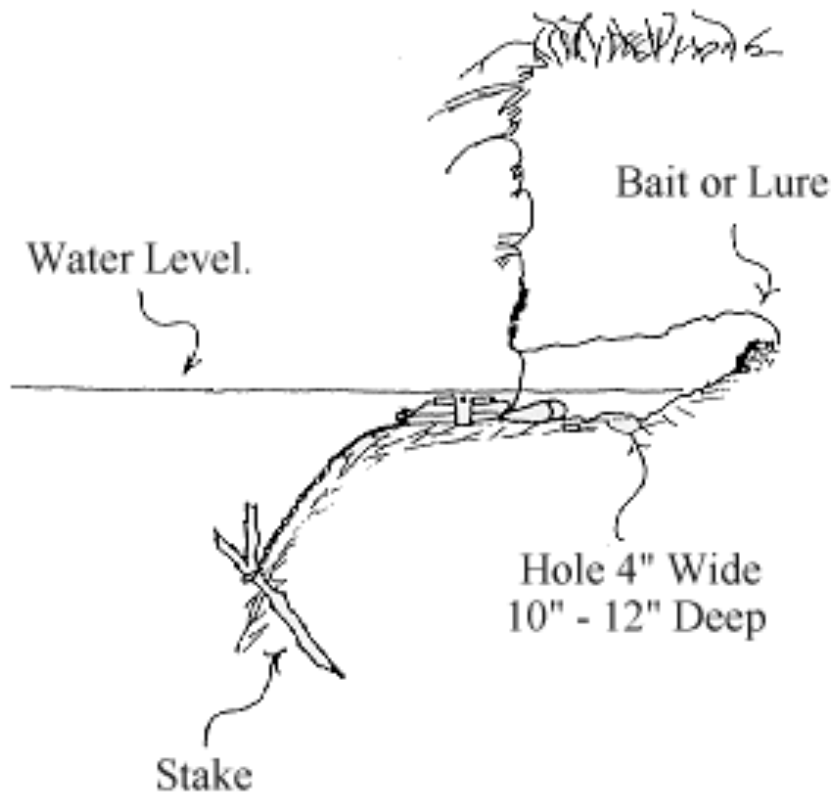
Figure MT2d. Bodygrip trap in pole set baited cubby with "V" configured trigger



Types of Sets

- Pocket Set
- Box Trap Set
- Blind Set
- Submersion Set
- Colony trap

POCKET SET



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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FleDArN-NE>

Pocket Set

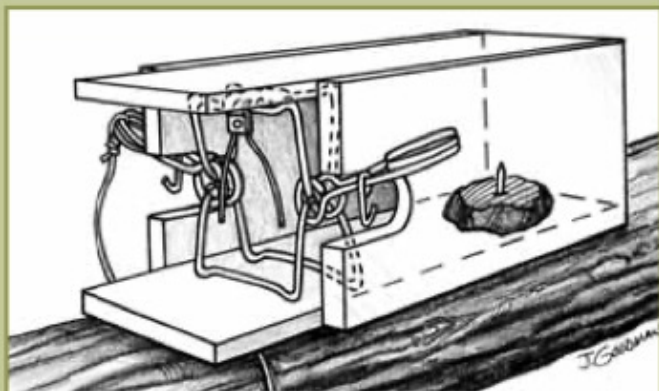
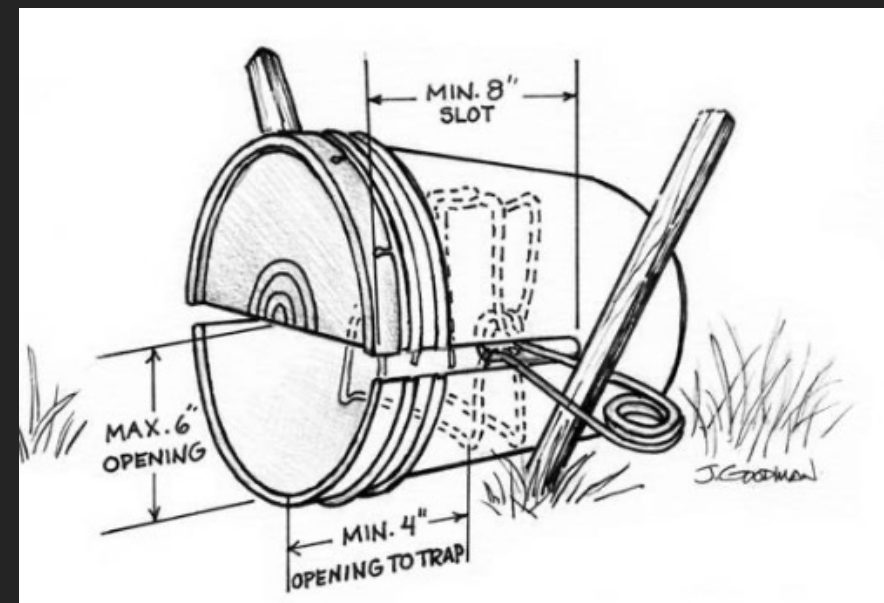
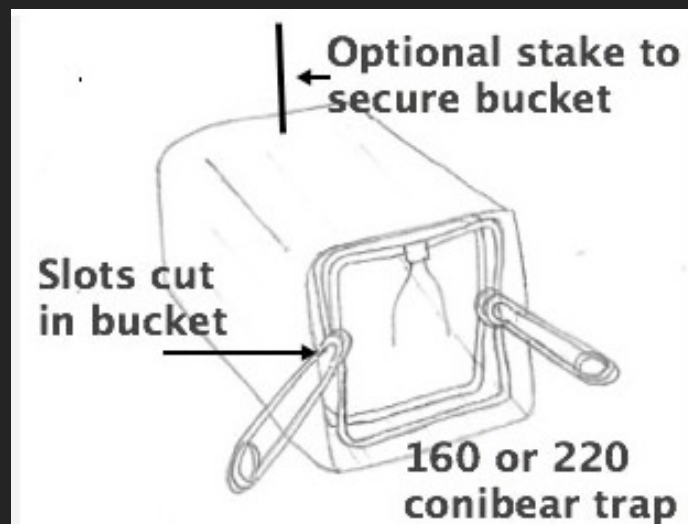


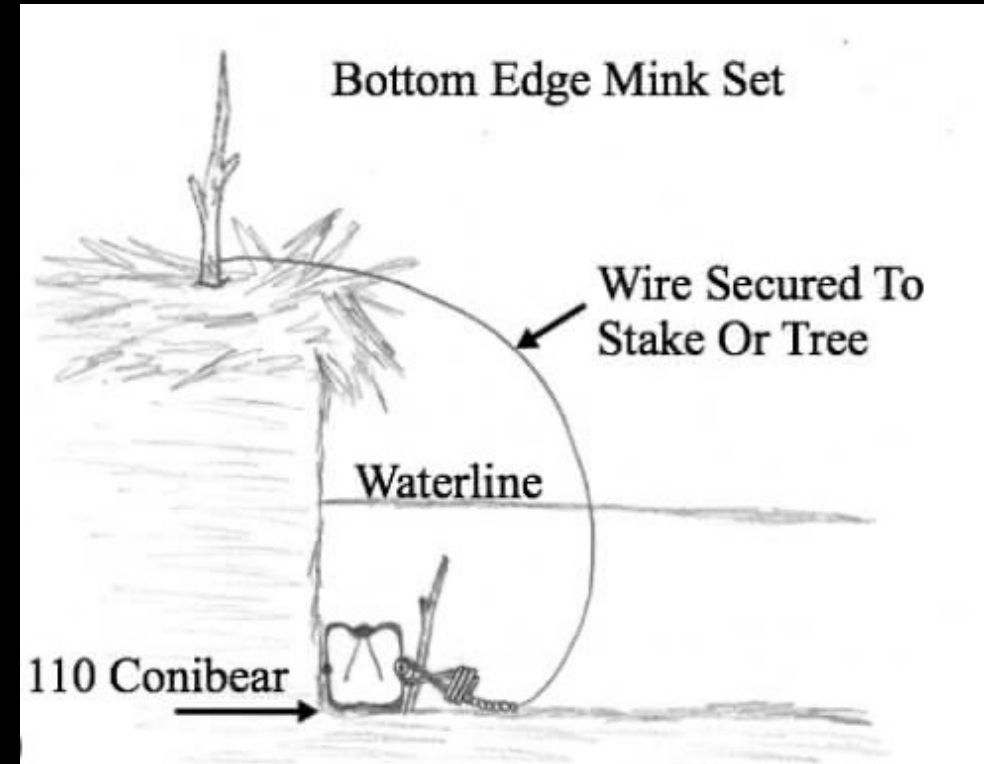
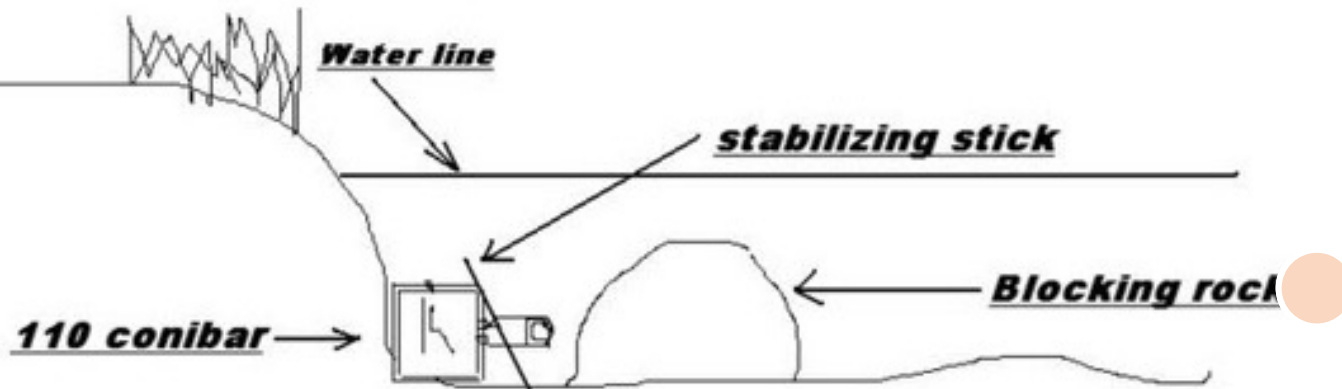
Figure MT2d. Bodygrip trap in pole set baited cubby with "V" configured trigger



Box Trap Set

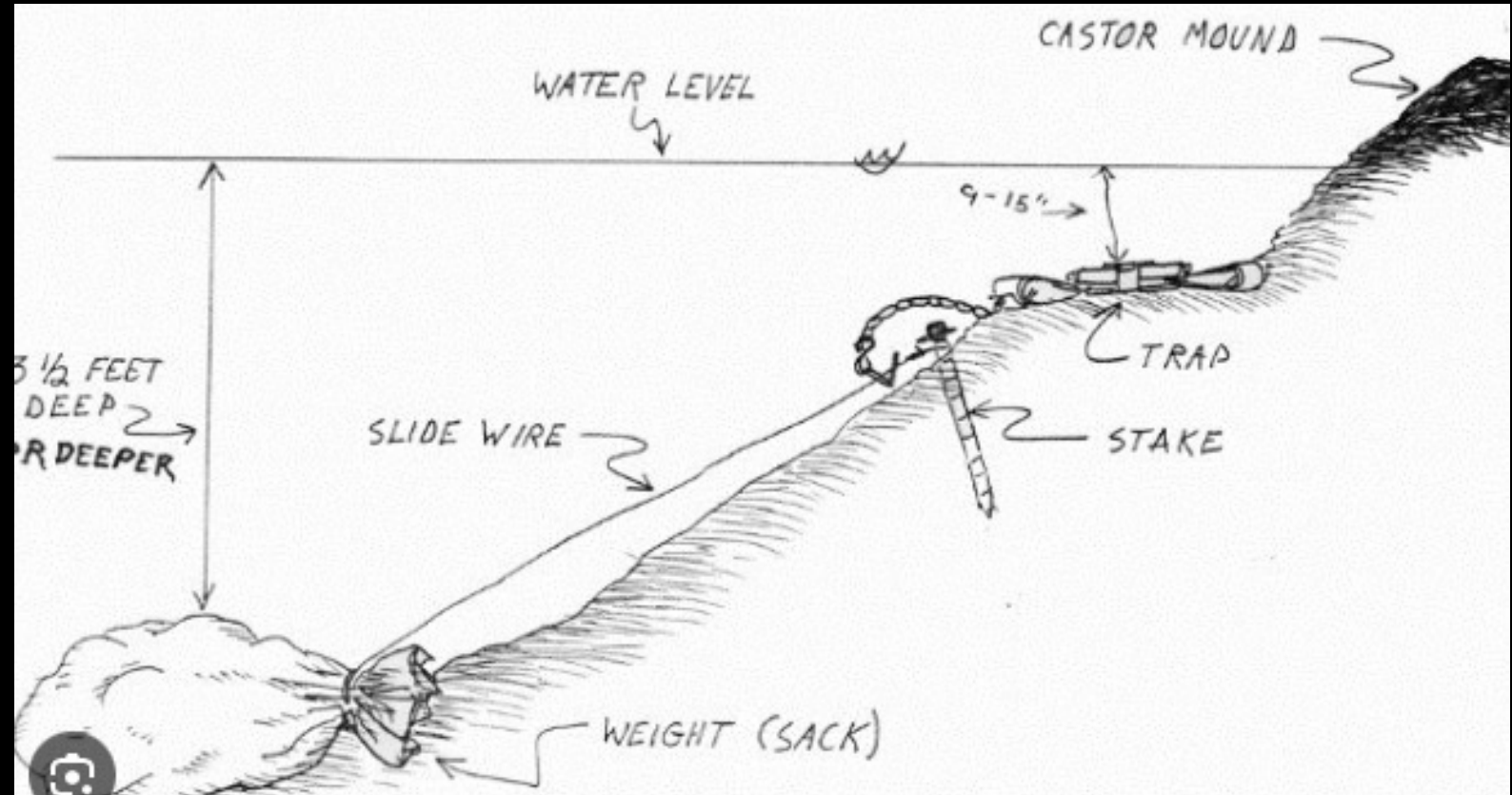
Run Set or Passive Set or Bottom edge set

Bottom edge set for Mink



Submersion Set

- Foothold trap
- Cable
- Anchor
- One way Slide
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Fad4ij6k7c4>



Underwater Snares

	Cable Characteristics	Loop Diameter*	Lock Type
Non-Powered Cable Devices (live restraint or submersion/under ice)	$\frac{3}{32}$ " diameter 7 x 7 and 1 x 19 weave	9 – 10	relaxing
	$\frac{1}{8}$ " diameter 7 x 7 weave		relaxing
(For use in submersion/under ice sets only)	$\frac{1}{16}$ " diameter 1 x 19 weave		relaxing or non-relaxing

Snare Pictures





Muskrat

- **Characteristics**

- The muskrat is a semiaquatic rodent and member of the Cricetidea family. Adults weigh between 1 1/2 and 4 pounds, and range from 16 to 25 inches in total length.. Pelage color varies from light brown to black. A thick water- proof under-layer of fur is overlain by long, glossy guard hairs.

- **Range**

- Muskrats inhabit all of North America except the Eastern Gulf states, and much of Nevada, California and Texas. the range extends north to the Arctic Circle.

Habitat

The muskrat is an aquatic mammal and prefers to inhabit still or slow-moving bodies of water. Common habitat types are marshes, sloughs, streams, lakes, ponds and various other types of wetlands.

Food Habits

The muskrat is chiefly herbivorous, but in some parts of its range it is known to eat freshwater clams, crayfish, fish, frogs and other small animals. When consuming aquatic vegetation, muskrats often eat the shoots, leaves, bulbs and rootstocks of plants. They prefer emergent vegetation such as cattails, three-cornered sedge and bulrush, but often feed on submergent vegetation as well.

Breeding

Depending on the geographic location of a population, a restricted breeding season may occur (northern part of range), or breeding may occur year round (southern part of range). After mating, there is a gestation period of 28 to 30 days. A litter normally consists of three to nine young. The muskrat may birth up to six litters per year, though most have only two or three litters annually.



Muskrat Trapping

- **General Considerations When Trapping Muskrats**
- *Foothold Traps*
 - Many currently-used trap models meet specifications for use in submersion sets
 - Loosening pan tension so that the pan moves freely may improve efficiency
 - Can be used to capture several furbearer species
- *Bodygrip Traps*
 - Should be placed so that the rotating jaws capture the animal by closing on the top and bottom of the captured animal's neck (Figure MK2)
 - Can be used in locations and in weather conditions where other traps are less effective
 - May not be appropriate in some areas (captures and kills animals, no release)

Muskrat Sets – Float set



Muskrat Set – Colony Trap





Muskrat Set – Submerged Conibear



Muskrat Set – Pedestal Set



Mink

- **Characteristics**

- Like other members of the weasel family, the mink has a long thin cylindrical body with short and sturdy legs. The head is dorsoventrally flattened with short rounded ears and a pointed nose. The pelage is dark brown to black during winter, but lighter brown

Adults males are typically much larger than females (i.e., sexually dimorphic) as is common among mustelids. Adult males weigh on average from 1 1/2 - 4 1/2 pounds, with females averaging 1 1/2 - 1 1/2 pounds. Adults average 19 - 8 inches in overall length including a 5 - 8 inch tail.

- **Range**

- Mink are found throughout the United States

- **Habitat**

- Mink occupy wetland habitat, preferring wetland areas where woody or brushy shoreline and emergent vegetation are present. Areas including stream, river and lake borders as well as marshes and swamps provide prime habitat for mink.

- **Food Habits**

- Mink are predatory carnivores and consume a wide variety of small mammals. Though the diet varies seasonally, small mammals are the most commonly consumed prey items year-round. In tidally influenced marshes, mink opportunistically forage in shallow pools of water or on mud flats exposed during low tide. In winter, fish make up a very important component of the diet, while birds and invertebrates are important in summer. The mink is a semi-aquatic forager and quite adept at catching fish and aquatic invertebrates such as crabs, crayfish and beetles. Mink are ferocious predators and often kill and cache more food than they are able to consume.



Mink Trapping

- **General Considerations When Trapping Mink**
- Foothold Traps (For use in submersion sets only)
 - Many currently-used trap models meet specifications
 - Loosening pan tension so that the pan moves freely may improve efficiency
 - Can be used to capture several furbearer species
- Bodygrip Traps
 - Should be set so that the rotating jaws capture the animal by closing on the top and bottom of the captured animal's neck (Figure MNa) or use a double strike set (Figure MNb).
 - Can be used in locations and in weather conditions where other traps are less effective
 - Can be used to capture several furbearer species
 - May not be appropriate in some areas (captures and kills animals, no release)



Mink Sets – Bottom Edge





Mink Set – Conibear in Box



Mink Set – In a run